

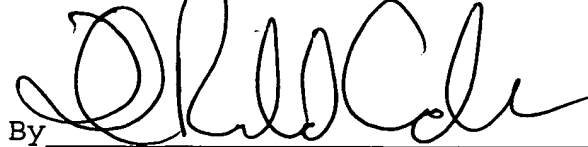
For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-3. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application(s) for the non-elected claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP



By

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

DRA/jdm
0879-0244P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000